

Public Spaces Commission

Meeting Minutes for June 7, 2021

5:30 PM –6:30 PM EST

Commission Objectives: Review the names of public facilities and spaces and the relevant history surrounding the namesake through the lens of whether the namesake participated in the oppression of African Americans, Indigenous Americans, and other communities of color and whether the namesake contributed to the nation's history of systemic racism and similar biases. Recommend any names that should be changed, contextualizes, or added for consideration for future naming of assets.

ATTENDEES: The following were in attendance:

Committee Member Names	Attended 6/7/2021
Alli Jessing	
Ani Begay Auld	X
Dr. Denise Boston	X
Dr. Robert Harris	X
Janssen Evelyn	
Kelly Palich	X
Kori Jones	X
Marcus Nicks	
Moyah Panda	
Nicole Patterson	
Shawn Gladden	
Stephanie Wall	X
Towanda Brown	X
Wayne Davis	X
Others (still members)? Everlene Cunningham Tara Simpson Tina Ligon	
Elaine?	
Lauren	

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order.

Roll Call:

A roll call of the attendees was done. Those who were in attendance can be found in the Attendees section above.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

No meeting minutes approval

CURRENT BUSINESS:

This meeting focused on the evaluation that was done by the criteria group to determine if any changes/additions/deletions should be made to the criteria used. The team used the information sheets that were provided. The team discussed staying away from controversial topics such as support for the Confederate flag since it is a point of contention. They are typically many other things that support the recommendation, and the support of the Confederate flag is not needed to justify the recommendation. The other things we have with supporting documentation cannot be disputed.

Recommendations:

- Get a full breadth of the person's life, including any writing and speeches they have done. Having this information really helps with the assessment and gives more concrete support for the recommendations made by the group.
- Use as much information from what the individuals said themselves. That way there is reduced opportunity to critique as it is based on direct actions, not what someone else thought.

Action Item: Sean is going to go through and have us evaluate a subset of people to analyze, not every individual or street. The research and information will be provided for use in the review (was to be provided by COB 6/7/21).

Wayne presented a document discussed and modified by the Research Team to make the information more manageable. There is a lot of information that exists, especially for the Governors. If we find in our research that there was an association with slavery or repression, the information should be easily identifiable for others to view. All information found should be on the Google drive.

NEXT STEPS:

- Action Item: Evaluate what is to be included in the report and provide recommendations (ALL)
- Research getting an online link for the information found. This will provide easy access.
- Put the information out to the public sooner than later and give them the opportunity to comment. Discussed the August/September timeframe.
- Think about names you want to submit so they can be considered. Send to Sean. Only those names that pass the evaluation will be put into the report. This is not a

frozen list. It provides a list of what we are offering about the types of people and names we found. There was a rubric done regarding how we will evaluate candidates that will be discussed next meeting.

- Consider putting out a survey and ask questions such as county and zip code to help with validity. The survey is to go out in July and results will be presented at the August meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. It was suggested that the research/identification be done on other surrounding counties that may have completed or been engaged in this exercise. Prince Georges County and Montgomery County were explicitly mentioned. **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
2. A major decision is needed for the group regarding the scope of the research: will the list be provided by the County Executive's Office or does the research team have to generate a list? **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
3. The web page will be up by the end of the week announcing the meetings. **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
4. A need list was suggested to serve as a place to document repository that need to be addressed. Howard County government uses SharePoint. Research must be done to identify if individuals that do not have an HC email address have access. The other possibility is Google Drive. **Assignees: *Stephanie/Janssen***
5. Topics that are to be discussed at the meeting, please provide to Stephanie in advance so the agenda can be published. **Assignees: *All Committee members***

Next Meeting: Monday, July 5, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Towanda Brown